

31 Oct 63
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22 Oct. 1963

NRO meeting -



Wheelon to head a research ops to further
analyze CO R photography looking
toward improvement program -

See Memos for Record attached -

NRO review(s) completed.

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APP. V, Tab 4

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McCone told McMillon & Helgaker
he was ordering an exploration by CIA
of needs & possibility of a second
generation search system, working
with requirements (concor) & photoexploitation (NPIC)
people.

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8. Dr. McMillan then addressed himself to the problem of an improved CORONA. A committee (including Agency representation) was set up to examine with the contractors a number of proposed technical improvements. The committee concluded that none of the proposals promised enough improvement to be worth implementing, although there was some interest in certain proposals relating to exposure ~~and control~~ *time*. At the same time, CIA has had a group examining the actual records of CORONA

photography and had concluded that atmospheric effects were the cause of our imperfections in the CORONA system.

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[redacted] have been allocated in the FY 64 budget for the improvement of the CORONA system. Nothing has been specifically allocated for CORONA improvement in FY 65.

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9. There followed some discussion as to the precise amount of money available for research programs generally in FY 64 and FY 65. There was general agreement that there should be further analysis of CORONA photography and that a group should be established to conduct these investigations. Dr. Wheelon pointed out that the group appointed on the West Coast to review the findings of the Purcell Panel did not in fact include representation from the Agency but the fact that two separate groups worked independently on this problem turned out to be a fortunate thing.

10. It was decided that a research group would be reconstituted under Dr. Wheelon's direction and Dr. Wheelon undertook to advise Dr. McMillan and others concerned of the proposed continuation of this group at the earliest possible date.

11. The DCI then discussed the general situation in the NRO and indicated his very strong belief that the NRO must be so constituted, directed, managed and staffed as to continue to be an instrument responsive to intelligence requirements. He stated that he wanted more CIA people assigned to the NRO in a truly joint organization.

12. It was further agreed that the officials represented at the meeting or officials similarly constituted in the hierarchy of the Agency and Defense Department should meet regularly as a Board of Directors to provide policy and management guidance to the NRO.